

THE WASHINGTON STAR
14 May 1977

Carter Wants Strict Law to Define Role of Nation's Spy Agencies

From News Services

President Carter has been "very pleased with the professionalism and competence" of the nation's intelligence agencies but legislation is needed to define "what they may and may not do," his spokesman said yesterday.

Press Secretary Jody Powell said existing legal statements governing the Central Intelligence Agency and other intelligence-gathering operations were too broad and general and permitted the interpretation that the agencies "can act outside of or above the law."

The President spent an hour yesterday morning discussing with the Senate Intelligence Committee and top administration intelligence officials the need for such legislation and for general reviews of intelligence activities conducted by Congress and the administration.

"A properly controlled and lawful intelligence operation is absolutely essential for the security of the country," Powell said at the daily White House news briefing.

AT THE SAME TIME, Powell said Carter was confident he knew what the CIA was doing and that it was acting within the law.

Powell said previous presidents have known about intelligence agency abuses or made sure they were not aware of abuses but that it was not Carter's policy to avoid knowing about violations of the legal limits.

He said while Carter was pleased with the professionalism of the intelligence-gathering agencies, the President told the Senate committee that he "could not allow the mistakes made in the past to cloud the recognition of the need for an effective operation."

During the presidential campaign, Carter frequently criticized the CIA, citing allegations of illegal operations, including coups d'etat and assassination plots.

Powell said the President and the committee agreed that intelligence agency organization and administration should not be controlled to such an extent that its operations are impaired.

He said the President and committee were joined by Vice President Walter F. Mondale, who served on the committee's predecessor when he was a senator and is overseeing the administration's review of intelligence operations, and by CIA Director Stansfield Turner a

national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski.

POWELL SAID Carter continued to oppose criminal penalties for persons disclosing government secrets. The President wants to cut down on the number of persons who have access to such information. Turner has advocated the penalties.

He said the legislation would deal with unauthorized disclosures.

Powell said he hoped the administration and congressional reviews would be completed by June and that legislation and an executive policy statement could be prepared by the autumn.

In a Rose Garden ceremony yesterday, Carter signed legislation authorizing more than \$20 billion for economic stimulus programs expected to generate 1.5 million jobs.

Congress, however, still must approve some of the major jobs programs that would be financed by the authorization bill Carter signed.

The legislation signing preceded Carter's afternoon departure for a weekend holiday at the presidential retreat in Camp David, Md.

CARTER SIGNED two bills designed to help state and local governments stimulate the economy.

One would create an estimated 600,000 new jobs through public works projects. Its \$4 billion cost was included in the second bill, a measure authorizing spending on stimulus projects in excess of \$20 billion.

Besides the \$4 billion public works project, that bill includes \$8 billion for 725,000 public service jobs at the state and local level, for which the federal government pays the salary. This is an increase from the present 310,000. Congress has yet to authorize the public service program itself, however.

Other items within the money bill:

- \$1 billion for a youth employment and training program designed to put some 200,000 young people to work. This program, too, still awaits congressional approval.
- \$2.25 billion for antirecession aid to help state and local governments balance their budgets.
- \$5 billion in general revenue sharing for cities and states, a program already authorized but not fully funded in the current fiscal year.